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PATENT

Atty. Docket No. ADI-005 (257/10)

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E. J. Smith  
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Gebhard  
SERIAL NUMBER: 09/328,749 ART UNIT: 3728  
FILING DATE: June 9, 1999 EXAMINER: A. Stashick  
TITLE: Torsion System for an Article of Footwear

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

This paper is submitted in connection with the continued prosecution application filed herewith, and is in response to the pending final Office Action, Paper No. 7, mailed from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on December 4, 2000, and the telephonic interview with the Examiner held on February 6, 2001.

Applicant respectfully requests entry of the following amendments, reconsideration and withdrawal of all grounds of rejection, and passage of the claims to allowance.

Please amend the application, without prejudice, and consider the following remarks.

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1 and 21 to read as follows. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(1)(ii), a marked up version of the claim amendments is attached at the end of this Preliminary Amendment.

*Sub E*  
*B*

A torsion system for an article of footwear including a sole with a forefoot area and a rearfoot area, the torsion system including a longitudinal axis and comprising:

- a forefoot portion of the torsion system spanning substantially the entire forefoot area of the sole;
- a rearfoot portion of the torsion system spanning substantially the entire rearfoot area of the sole; and
- an intermediate portion of the torsion system coupling the forefoot portion and the rearfoot portion, and constructed of a material and configured to allow, in a pre-selected

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